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new universe™

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JAN

KICKERS



GEIGER NICHOLS '85

new universe

"THE WITCHES OF WESTCHESTER!"

DEMON'S BLOOD THAT
BURNS SO BRIGHT
OPEN WIDE OUR INNER
SIGHT!
UNLOOSE THE CREATURES
OF THE NIGHT,
AS DARKNESS NOW
DISPELS THE LIGHT!

KICKERS, INC.

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PG 6 PG 6
6-22 1-5
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EDITOR

JIM
SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

LOOKS LIKE OUR
STOOLIE TOLD
THE TRUTH!

A BAND OF WITCHES REALLY
DO HANG OUT IN THIS PARK!

NOT QUITE, SUICIDE!
THESE GENTS APPEAR
TA BE MORE INTERESTED
IN DEMONOLOGY THAN
WITCHCRAFT!

THERE'S A
DIFFERENCE,
BRICK?

QUITE A BIT... ACCORDIN' TO A COURSE
I ONCE TOOK ON COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS!

PIPE DOWN, YOU
GUYS... AND WATCH
THE CEREMONY!

WAIT! I SENSE
AN UNFRIENDLY
PRESENCE
AMONG US!

SOMEONE WHO HAS
BROKEN OUR TRUST AND
MADE A MOCKERY OF
OUR SACRED RITES!

YOU MICHAEL
COURTNEY!
YOU HAVE
BETRAYED US
TO OUTSIDERS!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT, MAN? I DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING!

HEY,
LEMMIE
GO--!

SILENCE!
LIES CANNOT
SAVE YOU!

YOU ARE A
TRAITOR TO US!

YOU HAVE
DISGRACED
OUR SACRED
COVEN!

LET YOUR IMMORTAL
SOUL BE... FOREVER
FORGOTTEN!!

AAAGGH!!!



C'MON! COURTNEY'S THE ONE WHO TIPPED US!

JACK, WAIT--!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT KID? THE BIG GEEK DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM!

NEVER MIND THAT NOW! WE'VE JUST BEEN SPOTTED!



WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

KEEP BACK! I'M WARNING YOU--!

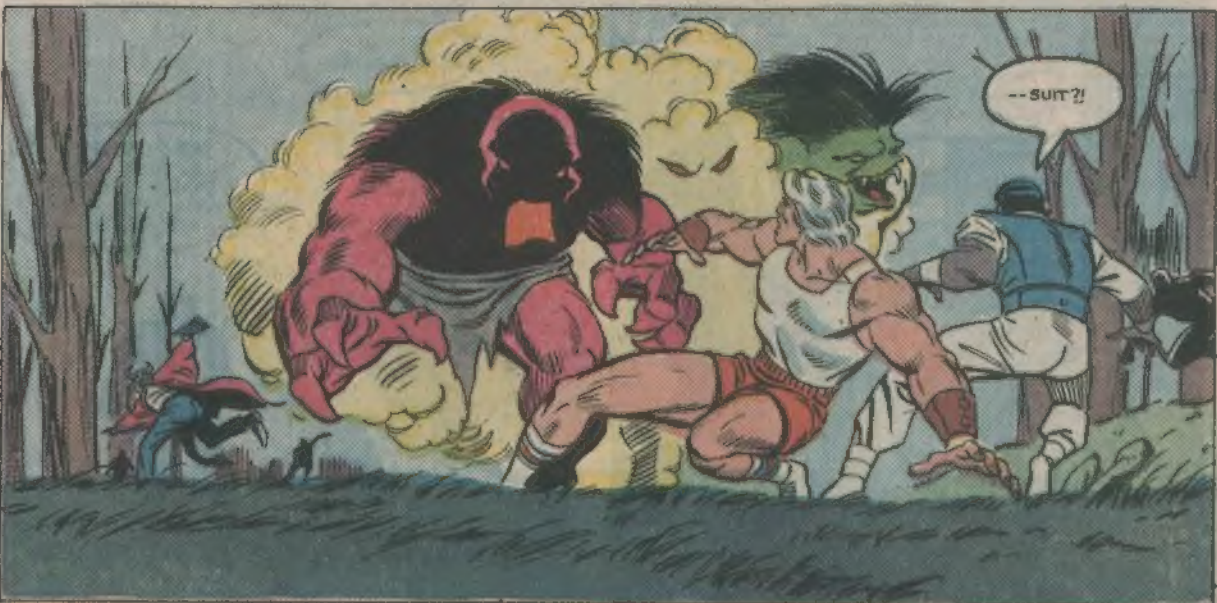
ARRGHH!



WHAT WAS THAT THING? IT BURST LIKE SOME KIND OF WATER BALLOON!

PLOOSH!

URKKKE SMELLS TERRIBLE! HOPE IT DOESN'T STAIN MY--



--SUIT?!





A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

WHAT HAPPENED, MAN?

I GOT WHACKED BY A PAIR OF CHEAP SUITS!



MEMBERS OF THE CULT?

NAH! THESE GOONS DIDN'T LOOK THE TYPE TO GO PRANCING IN THE PARK IN THEIR TUTUS!

HEY WHERE'S DASHER AND--



--JACK?!

MISSED AGAIN!

CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THESE CREATURES!



OH, NO! DIDN'T PLANT MY FEET PROPERLY! CAN'T KEEP MY--



--BALANCE!



YO JACK!



WE FOUND THE OTHERS! THE COURTNEY KID'S IN REAL BAD SHAPE --AND DASHER AIN'T THAT MUCH BETTER!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONSTERS? WHERE'D THEY GO?

MONSTERS?!

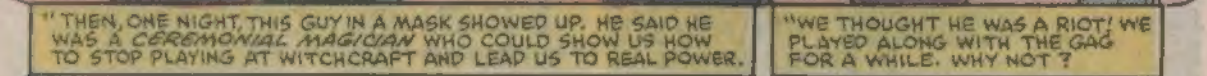
YOU MEAN THE CREEPS IN THE ROBES?!

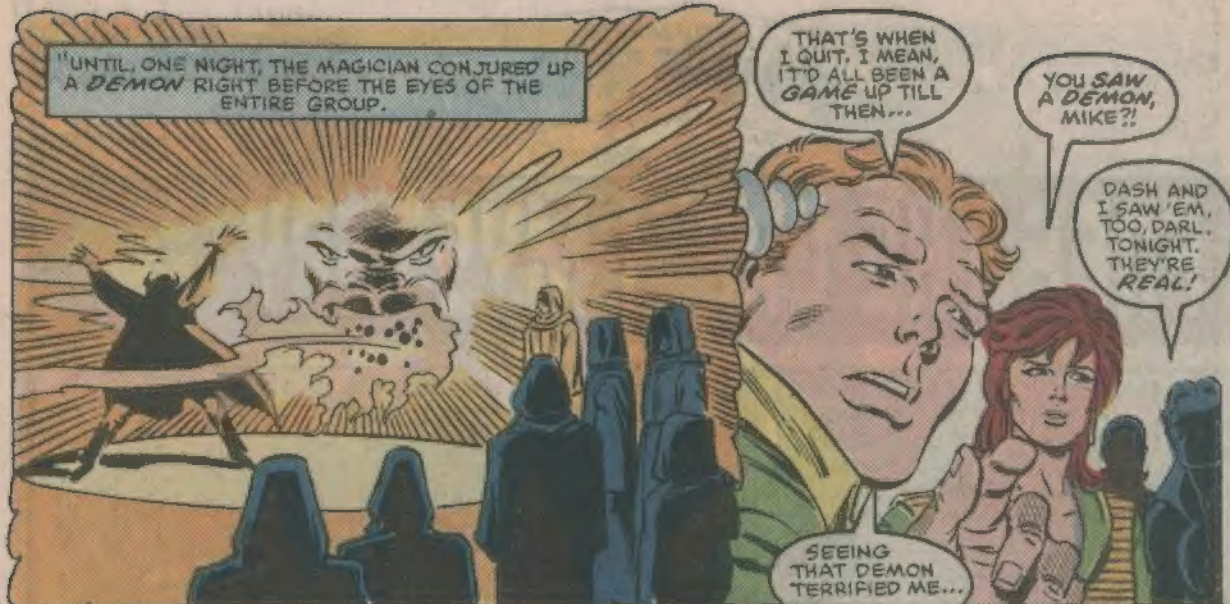


NO...ER... NEVER MIND!

LET'S GET COURTNEY AND DASHER TO A HOSPITAL!

I GOT A HUNCH THAT WE JUST GOT INVOLVED IN A LOT MORE TROUBLE THAN WE ORIGINALLY BARGAINED FOR!





"UNTIL, ONE NIGHT, THE MAGICIAN CONJURED UP A DEMON RIGHT BEFORE THE EYES OF THE ENTIRE GROUP."

THAT'S WHEN I QUIT, I MEAN, IT'D ALL BEEN A GAME UP TILL THEN...

YOU SAW A DEMON, MIKE?!

DASH AND I SAW 'EM, TOO, DARL, TONIGHT. THEY'RE REAL!

SEEING THAT DEMON TERRIFIED ME...



"...BUT NOT AS MUCH AS IT DID RAY CANNEL, ONE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE COVEN. HE COMMITTED SUICIDE."

"THE OFFICIAL REASON WAS 'ACADEMIC PRESSURES'..."



... BUT I KNOW BETTER. IT WAS FEAR... FEAR AND GUILT OVER THE HORROR WE'VE HELPED TO UNLEASH UPON THE WORLD.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU IN... BUT I KNEW THAT THE FOOTBALL TEAM YOU ALL PLAY FOR, THE SMASHERS, WERE GOING TO BE HOLDING A PRE-SEASON MINI-CAMP HERE DURING TRACE'S SUMMER TRIMESTER...

AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN. THE COVEN HAS TO BE STOPPED, BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE IS HURT...

AND SOMEHOW, THE DEMONS THEY'VE ALREADY UNLEASHED HAVE TO BE CALLED BACK! PLEASE!



YOU'RE MICHAEL COURTNEY, AREN'T YOU?

YES.

WHAT DO THE TESTS SHOW, DOCTOR?

SMILE

PERHAPS NOTHING... UNUSUALLY HIGH STRESS, ODD PERCEPTUAL ANOMALIES, BUT NO PHYSICAL DAMAGE.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO STAY OVERNIGHT FOR OBSERVATION.



STAY AS LONG AS THEY WANT YOU, COURTNEY. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

YOU CAN TRUST US.





JACK... I KNEW, WHEN I MARRIED A PRO QUARTERBACK, THAT DANGER AND INJURIES WERE GOING TO BE A PART OF YOUR LIFE...

BUT THIS COVEN THING... ONE BOY HAS DIED, AND ANOTHER IS IN THE HOSPITAL. I NEVER REALIZED, WHEN WE FOUNDED KICKERS, INC., HOW DANGEROUS IT MIGHT BECOME.

DON'T YOU EVER HAVE DOUBTS AND SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT...?

NO, DARLENE. I DON'T.

WE'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY MY BROTHER STEVE'S INTENSIFIER SO DRAMATICALLY ENHANCED MY PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES WITHOUT HAVING ANY EFFECT AT ALL ON THE OTHER ATHLETES WHO USED IT...

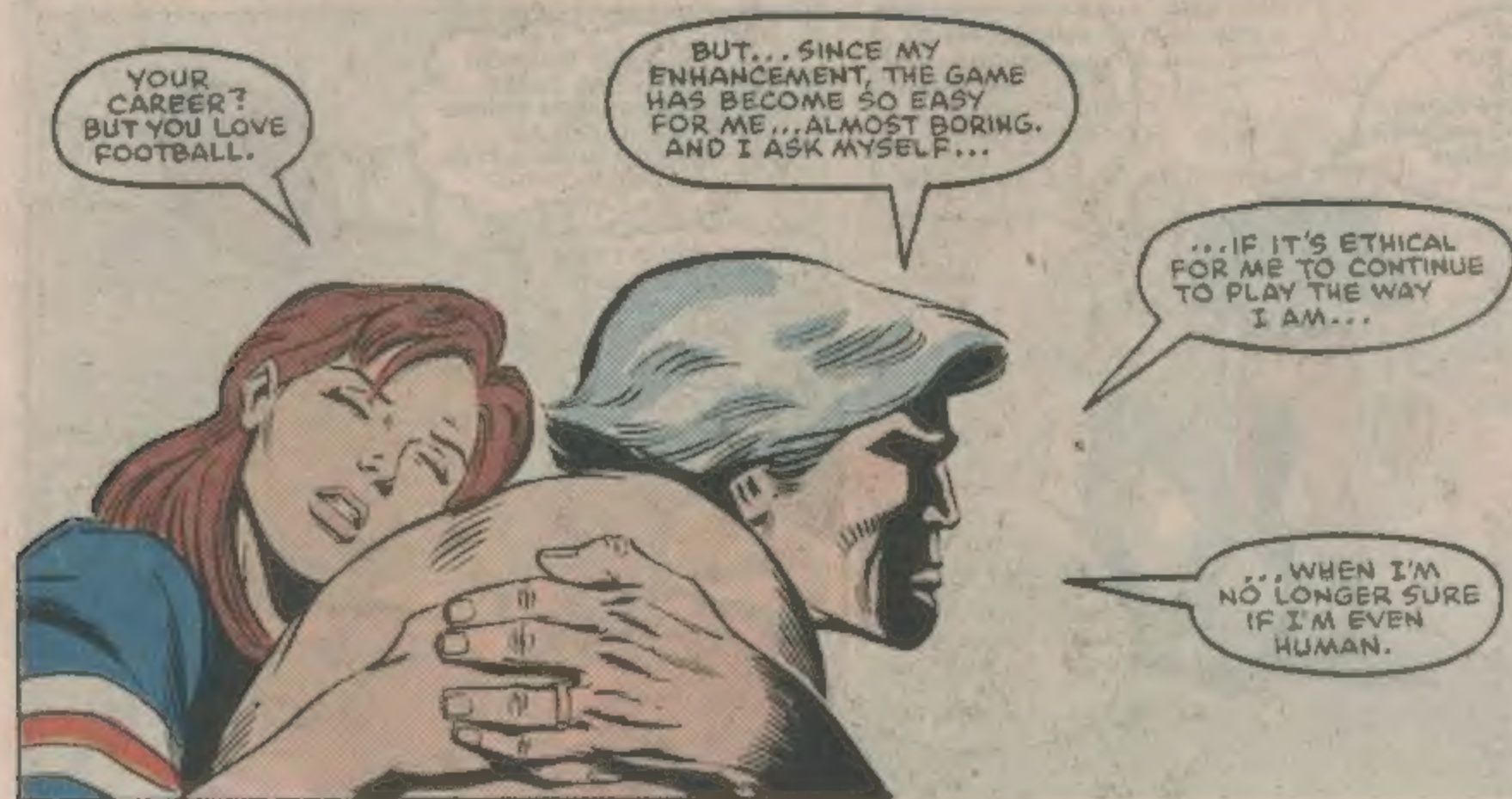


...BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT STEVE DIED BECAUSE HE GOT INTO TROUBLE, AND HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO.



I OWE IT TO HIS MEMORY TO USE THE POWERS HE GAVE ME TO HELP OTHERS LIKE HIM.

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, THOUGH, I'VE BEEN HAVING SERIOUS DOUBTS... ABOUT MY FOOTBALL CAREER.



YOUR CAREER? BUT YOU LOVE FOOTBALL.

BUT... SINCE MY ENHANCEMENT, THE GAME HAS BECOME SO EASY FOR ME... ALMOST BORING. AND I ASK MYSELF...

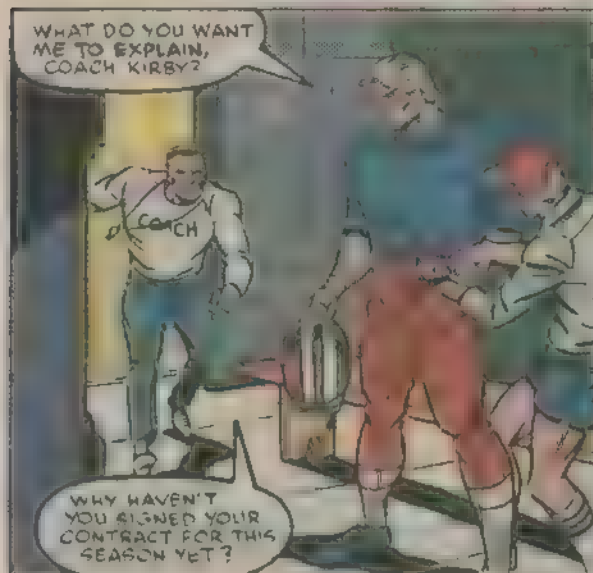
...IF IT'S ETHICAL FOR ME TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THE WAY I AM...

WHEN I'M NO LONGER SURE IF I'M EVEN HUMAN.



AWRIGHT, MR. JACK
"THE MAGNIFICENT"
MAGNICONTE! IT SEEMS
TO ME YOU HAVE SOME
EXPLAINING TO DO!

SO WHY DON'T
YOU JUST START
RIGHT NOW?!



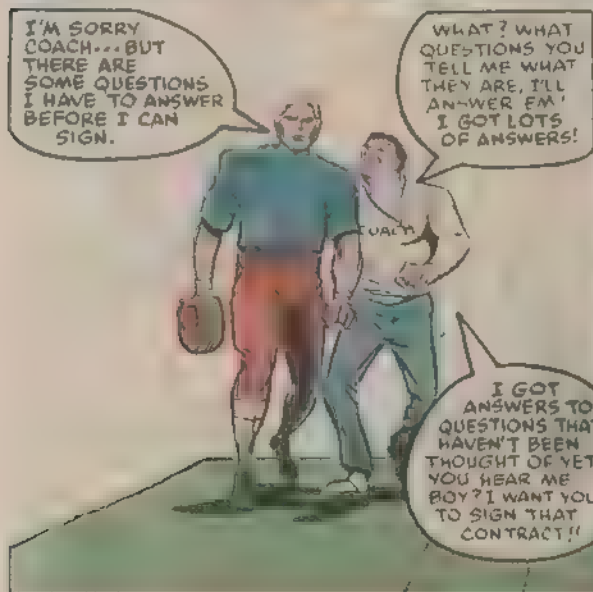
WHAT DO YOU WANT
ME TO EXPLAIN,
COACH KIRBY?

WHY HAVEN'T
YOU SIGNED YOUR
CONTRACT FOR THIS
SEASON YET?



THE SMASHERS HAVE BEEN
GOOD TO YOU, BOY...MADE
YOU FAMOUS, GAVE YOU THE
MONEY TO START THAT
CHARITY YOU AN' THE BOYS
ARE SO PROUD OF. WE
EVEN LET YOU BRING
YOUR LITTLE WIFE
TO THE MINICAMP!

WHAT MORE
DO YOU WANT?



I'M SORRY
COACH...BUT
THERE ARE
SOME QUESTIONS
I HAVE TO ANSWER
BEFORE I CAN
SIGN.

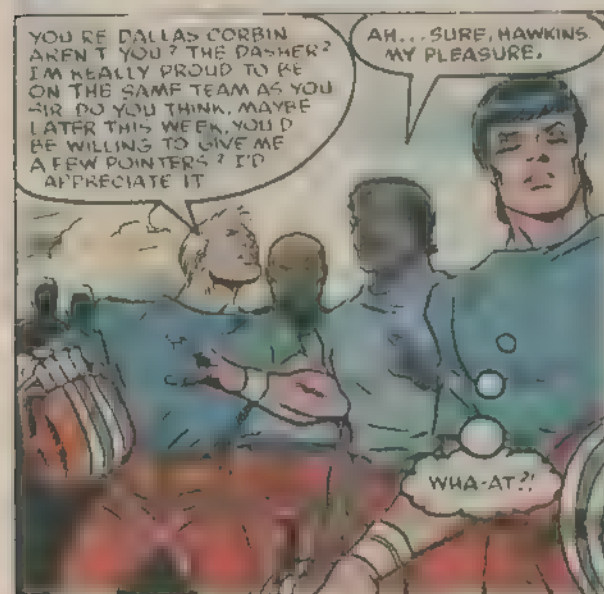
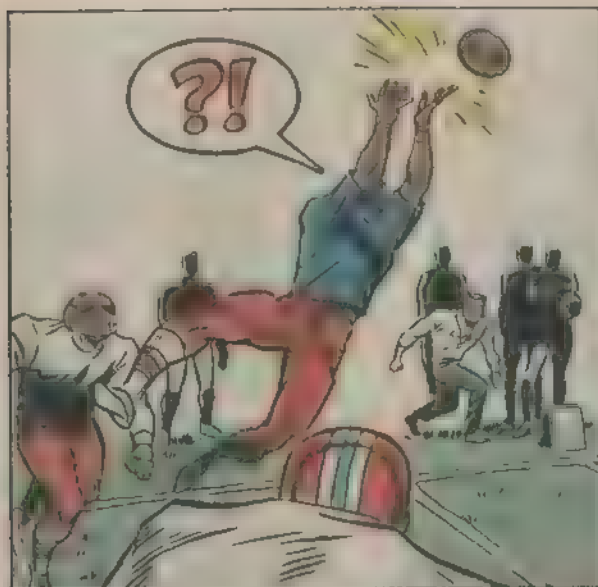
WHAT? WHAT
QUESTIONS YOU
TELL ME WHAT
THEY ARE, I'LL
ANSWER 'EM! I
GOT LOTS
OF ANSWERS!

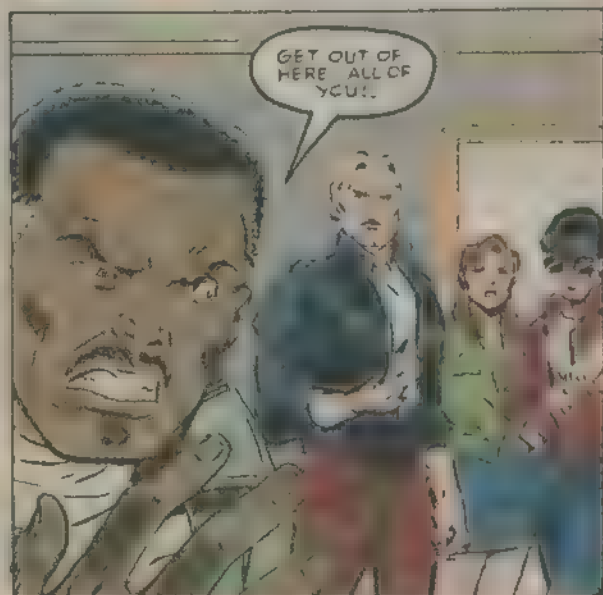
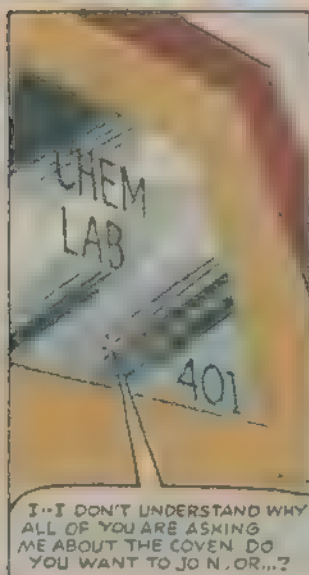
I GOT
ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS THAT
HAVEN'T BEEN
THOUGHT OF YET,
YOU HEAR ME
BOY? I WANT YOU
TO SIGN THAT
CONTRACT!!

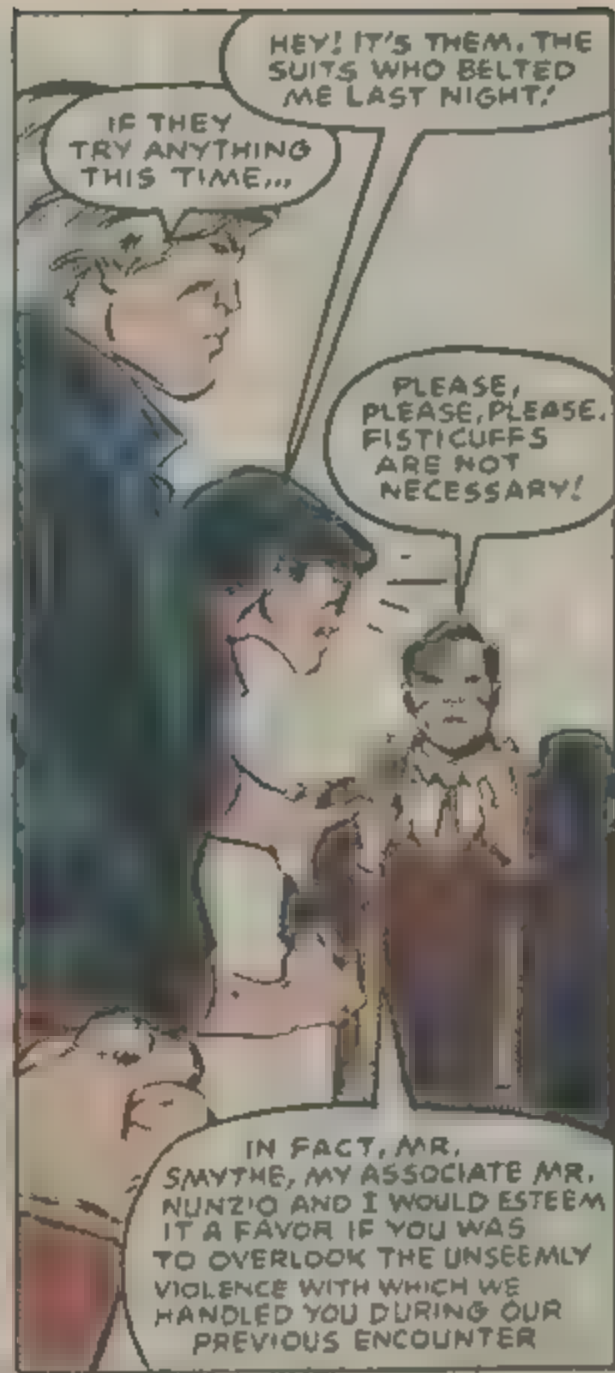


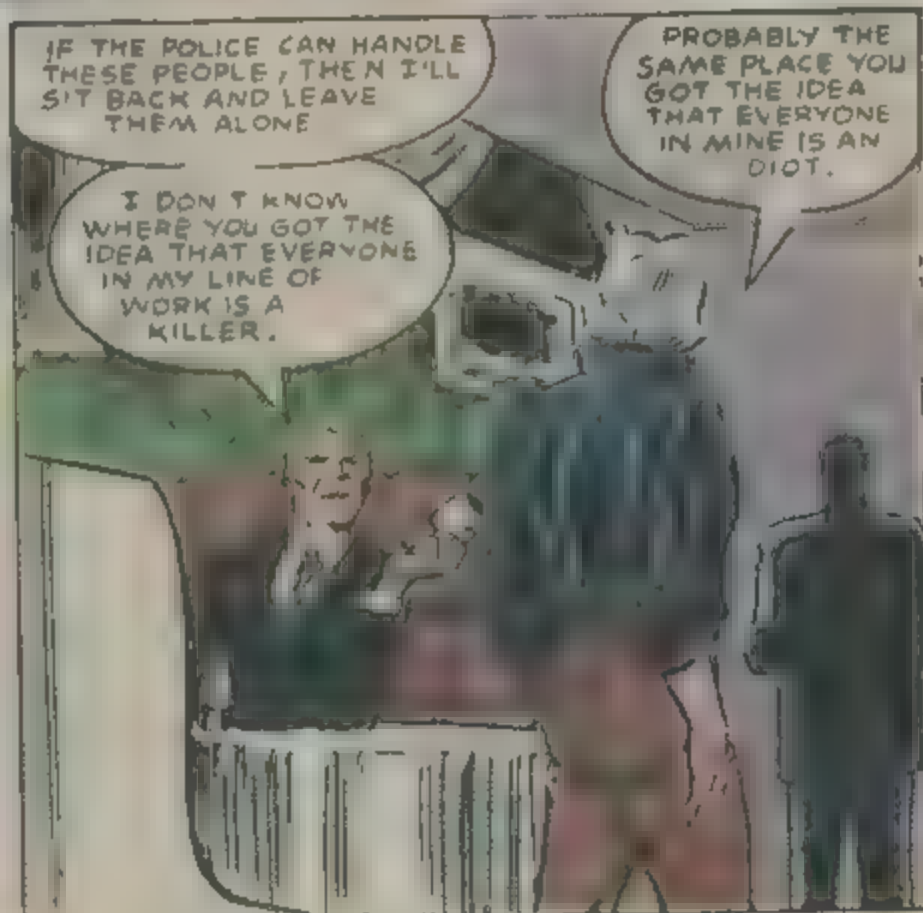
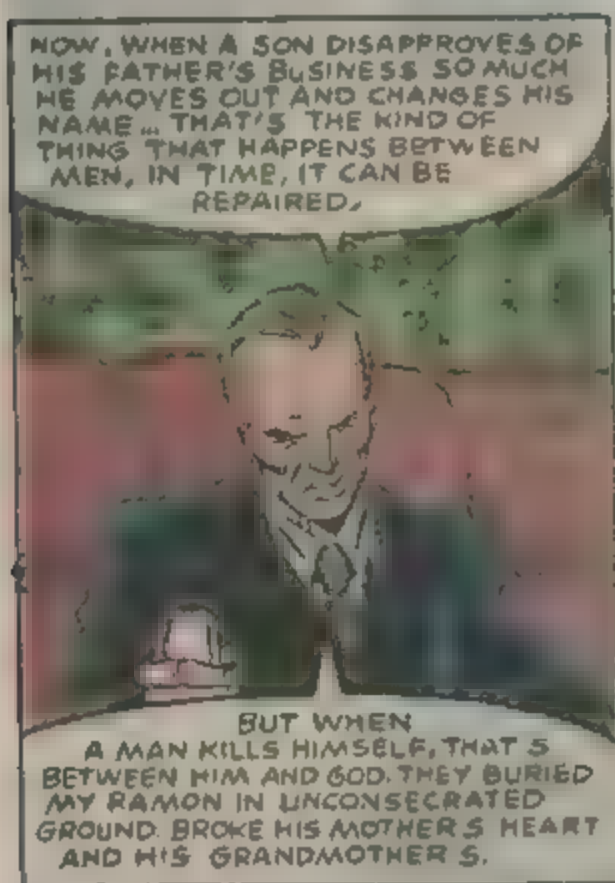
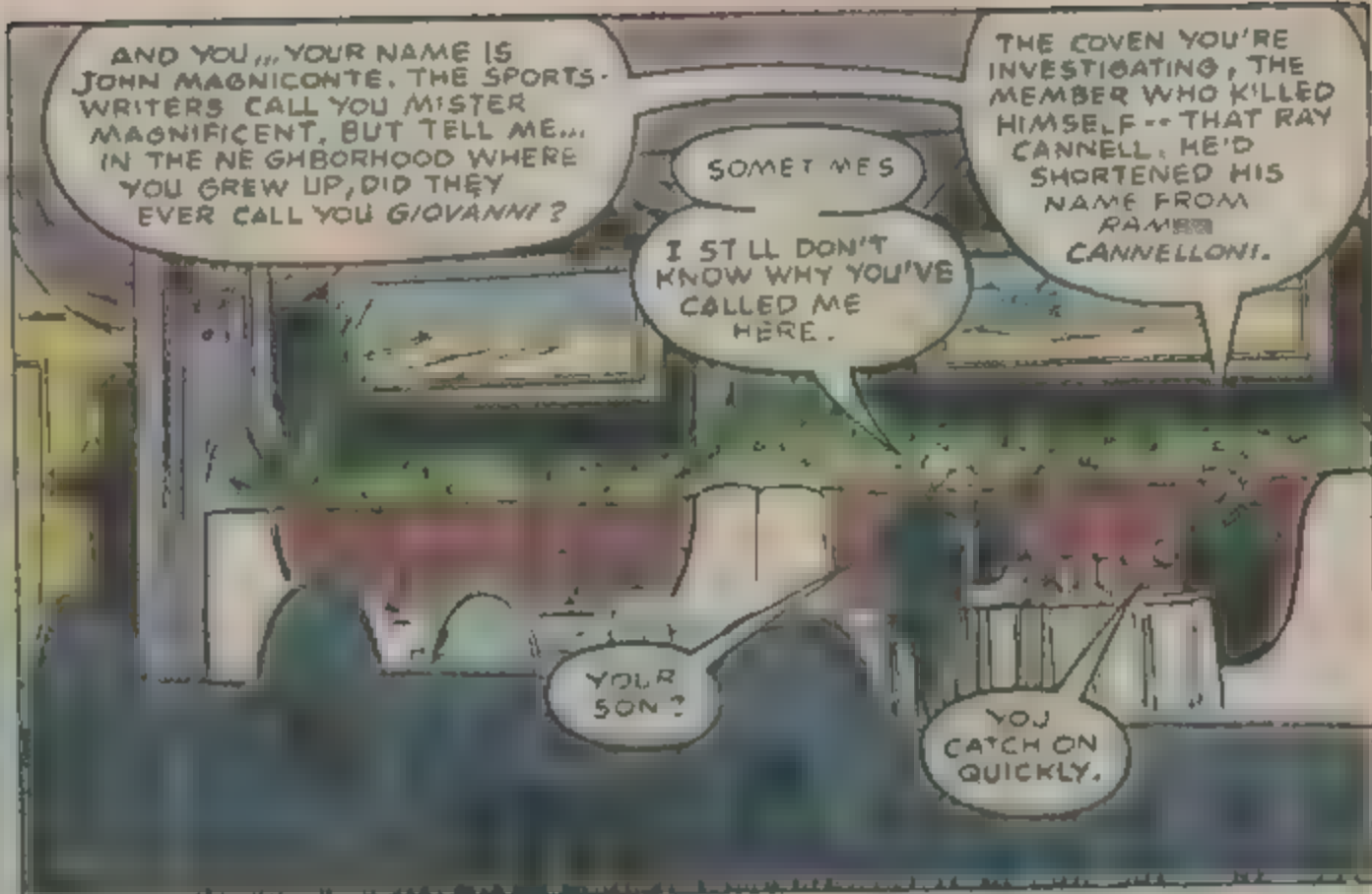
IT'S EASY ENOUGH
TO AVOID THESE
DEFENSEMEN DURING
THE REGULAR
SEASON NOW AFTER
A FEW MONTHS
VACATION..

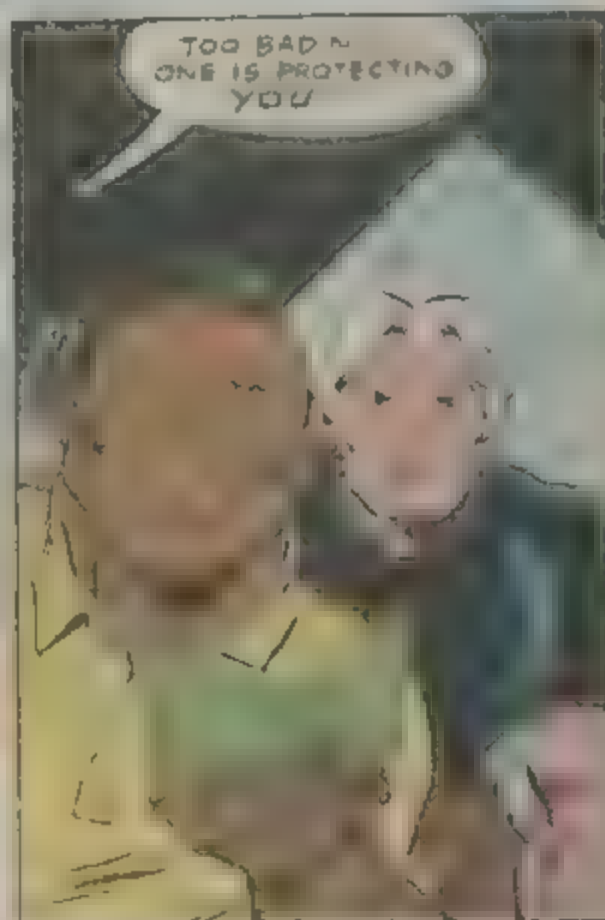
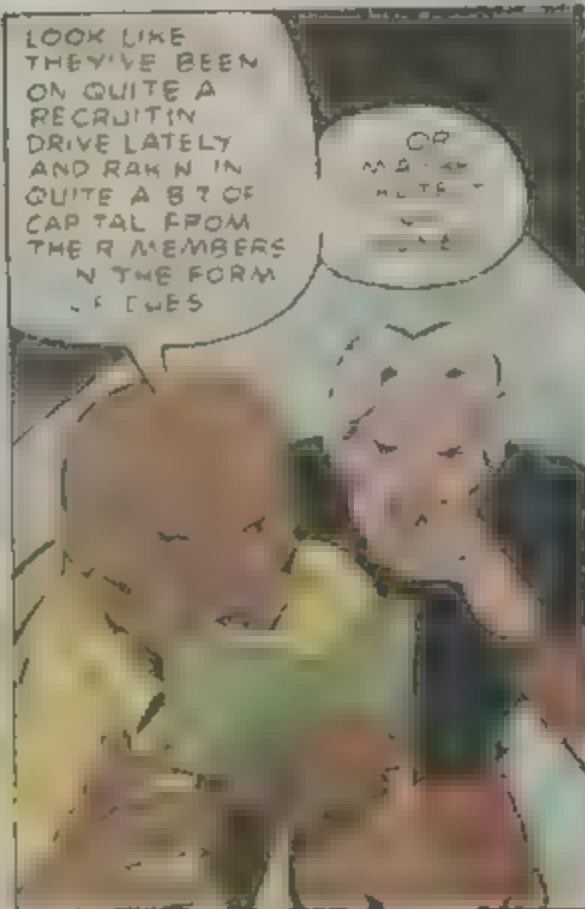
THEY'VE GOTTEN
SO SOFT THAT
AVOIDING MOST
OF THEM IS A
JOKE

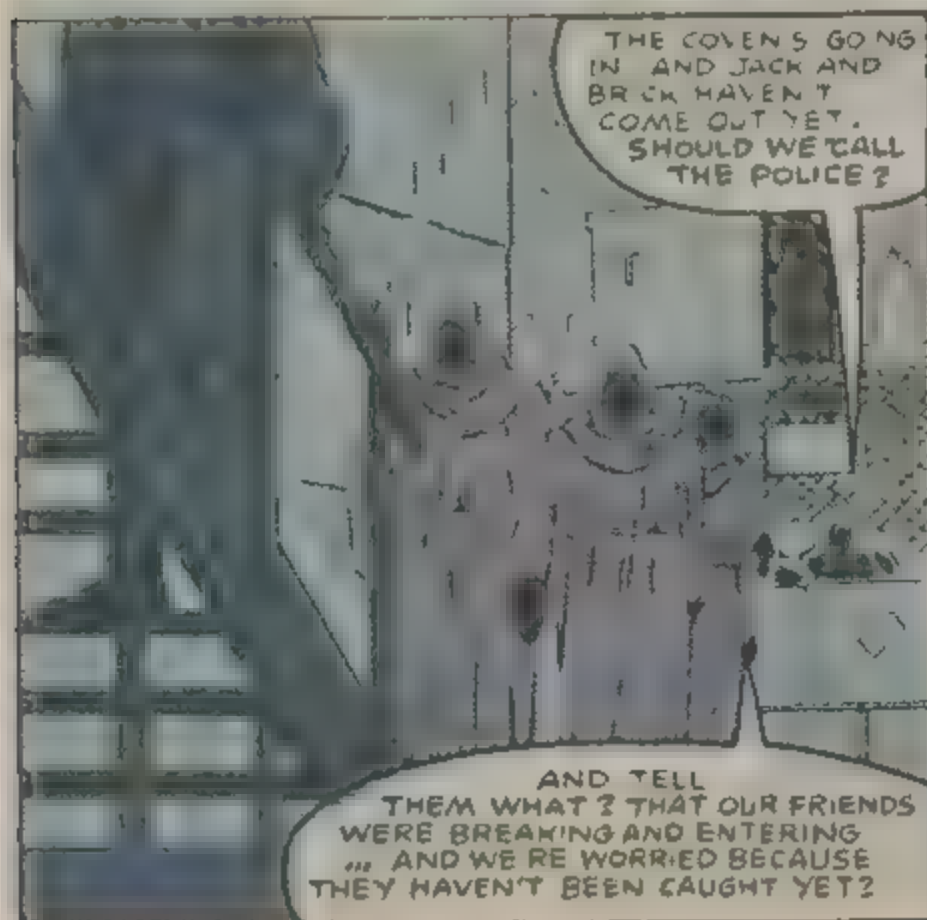




















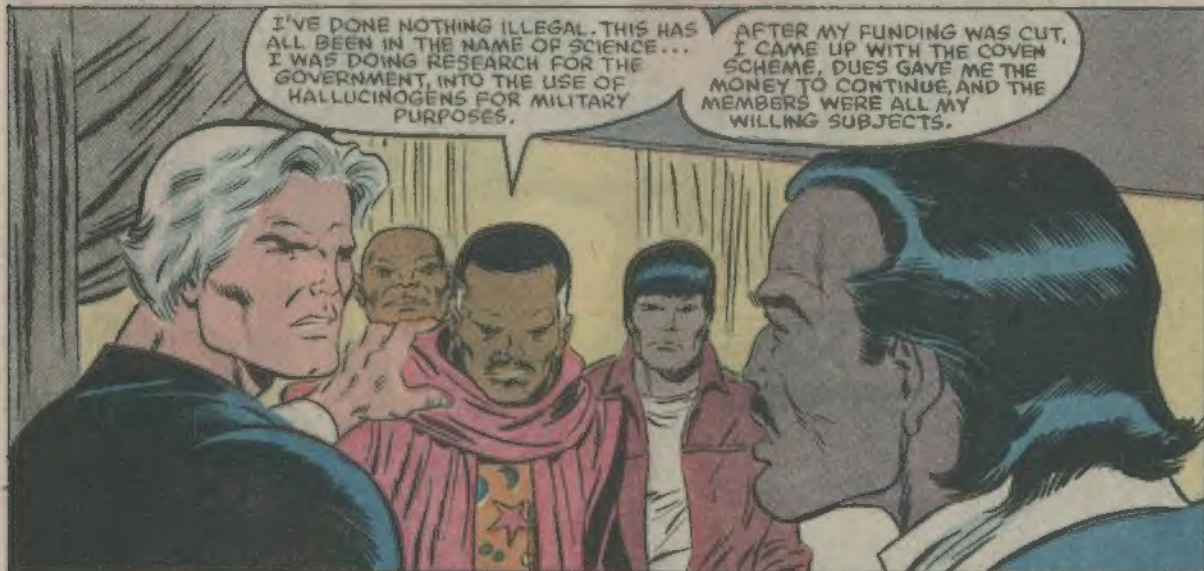
WHY, PROFESSOR JORDAN, AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF?

NO! AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ME, FOOL!



I'VE DONE NOTHING ILLEGAL. THIS HAS ALL BEEN IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE... I WAS DOING RESEARCH FOR THE GOVERNMENT, INTO THE USE OF HALLUCINOGENS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

AFTER MY FUNDING WAS CUT, I CAME UP WITH THE COVEN SCHEME. DUES GAVE ME THE MONEY TO CONTINUE, AND THE MEMBERS WERE ALL MY WILLING SUBJECTS.



ALL I DID WAS GIVE THEM THE MEANS TO SEE THE MAGIC AND DEMONS THEIR CREDULOUS, SUPERSTITIOUS MINDS SO CRAVED.



JUST LIKE THE WITCHES IN HISTORY... HOUSEWIVES WHO TOOK BELLADONNA AND ACONITE ... AND THEN BELIEVED THEY SAW DEMONS AND FLEW AROUND ON THEIR BROOMS.





PRECISELY. AND REMEMBER, IF YOU BRING CHARGES OF ASSAULT AGAINST ME, I'VE A ROOMFUL OF WITNESSES TO THE FACT THAT YOU BROKE IN HERE AND ATTACKED ME.

DON'T WORRY. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CALLING THE POLICE.

SO WE JUST LET HIM GET AWAY? SCOT FREE?



NOT EXACTLY.

WE KNOW PROFESSOR JORDAN IS GUILTY, BUT THE POLICE CAN'T TOUCH HIM. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN.



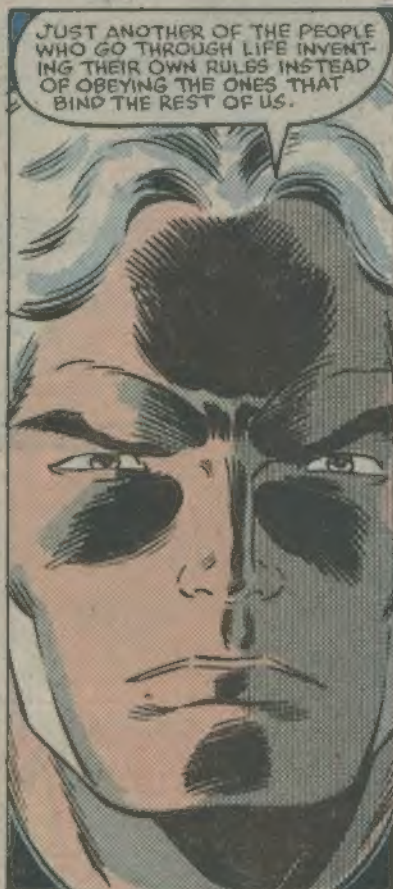
THAT'S JORDAN, OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT. MAN AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, IN THE ROBES.



WHO YOU TALKIN' TO, JACK?



NO ONE, BRICK. NO ONE YOU'D WANT TO KNOW.



JUST ANOTHER OF THE PEOPLE WHO GO THROUGH LIFE INVENTING THEIR OWN RULES INSTEAD OF OBEYING THE ONES THAT BIND THE REST OF US.



**NEXT
ISSUE: CRY VENGEANCE**